



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## Airfields 'Mid Greenland's Lofty Mountains

### WEATHER MEN ON THE ICE-CAP

IN the not-too-distant future commercial airways will be passing over Arctic regions as the quickest way between many great cities. Then the provision of emergency landing-places among the icy wastes will be necessary. Something has been done already to prepare for this.

As part of the Allied strategy in the Atlantic 25 American airmen and scientists lived on Greenland's mountainous ice-cap during the war. The story of their life and adventures in Greenland's interior is another testimony to the intrepid and dangerous enterprises in the war.

Greenland was useful to both sides in the Battle of the Atlantic as the site of weather stations. Both Germany and America "occupied" positions on the southern coastline, and America expected that the Germans would make airfields on the ice as possible "take off" grounds for bombing the eastern coast of the United States.

#### Attacking the Slopes

An American task force landed at Comache Bay in 1942, and built two small buildings as a base—a kitchen-dining-room-storehouse, and a sleeping shed. Behind the beach stretched the high icy ground leading to the interior ice-cap. Motor toboggans were tried on the slopes and failed to grip. The heavy dog-teams laden with supplies slithered backwards and were quite unable to make progress.

Attacking the slopes on skis, and with light dog-teams, the expedition succeeded in penetrating for 16 miles across the ice-cap and established one weather station. To this "spring board" in the ice several hundred tons of supplies were brought on specially-built vehicles with skis, and many tons were lifted up the slopes by winches.

The rugged face of the ice-cap proved impassable to mechanical vehicles, although aeroplanes fitted with skis were able to take off along smooth patches of snow.

But the main reconnaissance work had to be done on foot. The five-days' expedition on to the ice-cap to discover a suitable station accomplished only 70 miles and took the party up to over 7000 feet. But the return journey took only two days.

#### Mighty Winds

Two days later sledges were loaded with 1700 pounds of house sections and stores. Forty miles out the front part of a sledge broke, but in answer to radio messages a spare part was brought up to the expedition in two days. There, on the dome of the ice-cap, the expedition set up its weather observatory and began sending radio signals to shipping and aircraft in the North Atlantic. Throughout the winter of 1943 strong winds howled through the huts and tents, often as fierce as seventy miles an hour, and increasing to 125 miles an hour. Driven snow, ice particles, swept into the faces of the scientists as they worked at their instruments, and the excessive wind seemed to suck away the breath from the workers' lungs.

In the spring and summer of 1944 further expeditions were made into the Greenland interior to explore for suitable airfields. As the ice-cap gets higher, the smoother surface provides excellent possibilities for airfields with only two drawbacks—the height, and changing surface conditions. Planes with skis are necessary, for the fields are at the mercy of snowstorms.

These wartime adventures proved that the inland ice-cap of Greenland could be used permanently for weather observation, and they have prepared the way for future airfields. But supply lines from the base, 140 miles away at the coast, would be needed to keep them established, and life at ten thousand feet on the exposed ice-plateau would be lonely and harsh. Not a single station is now working there, however, although there are many on the coast.

#### Pick of the Bunch



A young worker in the vineyards at Frascati, near Rome.

### AN EDITOR IN ARCADIA

LEON MENGE, of Arcadia, Pretoria, Editor of the Children's Club Magazine, is probably the youngest editor in South Africa, for he is just 11 years old. He is in the Fourth Form of the Arcadia Primary School.

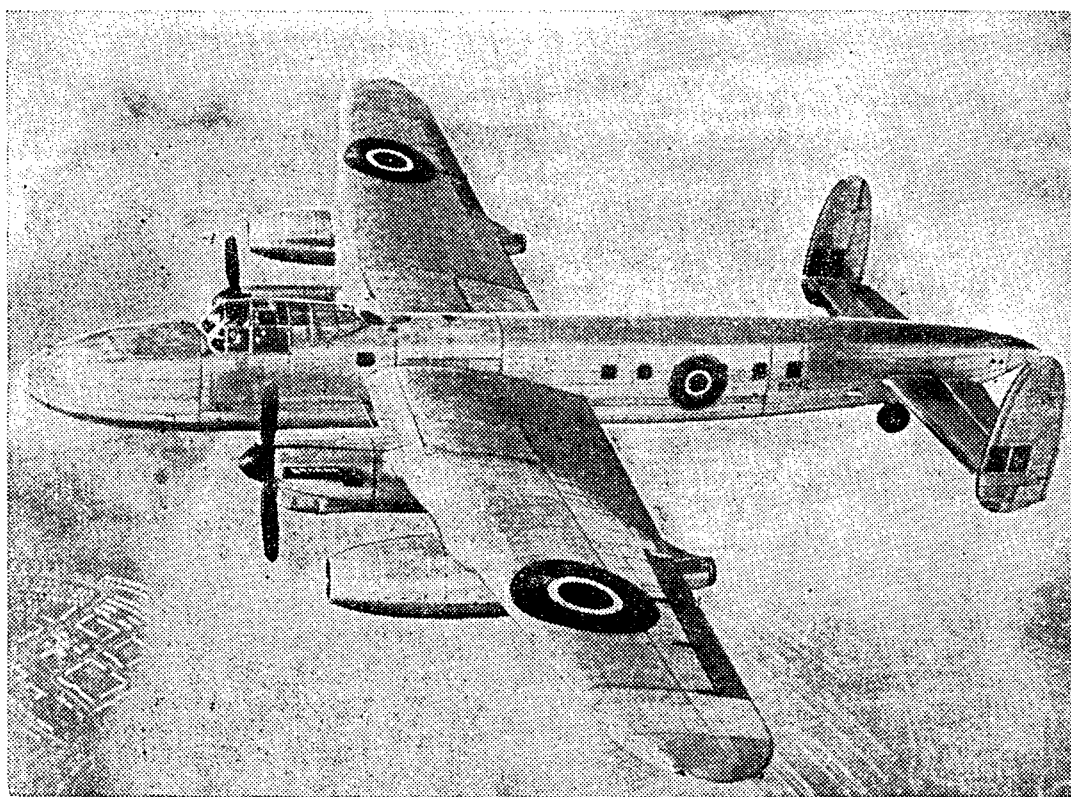
The circulation of his magazine is round about 400 and he hopes to reach the 1000 mark soon. The magazine is sold at 2d, and the proceeds are handed to the Pretoria Cripples' Home.

Leon Menge has been an ardent journalist for some time,

for when in Standard Three he accepted the editorship of the class magazine which his classmates wrote. Leon printed it on a duplicator, and it was sold at 4d a copy. The proceeds at that time were given to the Red Cross.

Those of us who know the Street of Adventure wish Leon the best of fortune in his charitable work, and hope in years to come we shall see him in the editor's chair of some famous national newspaper.

## JET POWER FOR GIANT PLANE



This Lancastrian is the 'world's first passenger-carrying jet aircraft. It takes off with all four engines, but when height is attained the two piston engines are stopped and it continues on the outer jet engines alone, as seen in the picture. It recently flew from Paris to London in 41 minutes.

## Farewell Romance!

A ROMANCE has gone. Born in British Columbia, it has been dispelled by the British Museum.

On the banks of the Frazer River, strange marks, like writing, appeared on some stones. Could they have been inscribed by the followers of the chieftain who, according to Welsh legend, sailed with 900 men into the sunset in the year 1077? But authority says, No; not only because there is nothing to support the supposition that an expedition that had to cover 3000 miles of sea before walking another 3000 miles overland to reach the Frazer River ever got there; but because the strange markings are not like those of the old Welsh alphabet. Professor Macalister, who is the highest authority on what is known as the Ogham Welsh Runic writing, says they are not, and his declaration is

supported by Dr H. J. Braunholtz of the British Museum.

But something yet remains of romance for anyone who will look up the story of Runic writing and its strange travels. It was the oldest form of Germanic writing, and probably was founded on the Greek and Roman alphabets, the Roman for choice. It spread widely and found a second home

**\* \* \* MRA RINE MRA RINE \***  
Runic writing

in Denmark, thence to Norway, Sweden, and to Britain.

In Britain was its golden prime. For five centuries it was the script, and the knowledge which enables interpretation of its characters came from the Anglo-Saxon manuscripts of pious men, the chroniclers and monks. When Canute came to conquer England he would have known it well, even if, like most monarchs in those times, he had not been able to read. He would have seen it not only on crosses, but on stone monuments on which the names of warriors were written in the Runic angular characters.

There are many such Runic inscriptions known. His own name might have found a place on one of them—and so might the resounding name of Prince Madoc ap Owen Gynedd, if indeed he had stayed to live and die in his own country instead of becoming a legend of adventure across the seas.

## - TWENTY YEARS AFTER

### Jack Miner's Geese Come Home

THE three sons of the late Jack Miner, Canada's famous bird-lover and naturalist, have this year caught several geese on which their father had fastened bands and released some 20 years ago at his Sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario. On each of the birds' bands was the date of the original banding, Jack Miner's address, and a verse of Scripture—his unique way of spreading the Gospel.

Jack Miner was the pioneer in Canada and the US of establishing bird sanctuaries in each Province and State and of banding waterfowl to find out more about their habits—how long they live, whether they return to the same sanctuary, their route of migration, and so on.

He collected a vast amount of information about the migration of wild ducks and geese, and last year US authorities sent two biologists to make a survey of Jack Miner's extensive files. The result of their study has been printed in a booklet which gives the fullest records yet obtained of the flight of North America's wild geese and ducks.

Jack Miner was a pioneer in other ways at his bird sanctuary. He believed in feeding birds artificially to protect them. "Is it not as sane to feed to protect," he asked, "as to feed to shoot?"



## WHERE DANES AND GERMANS LIVE TOGETHER

THE southern boundary of Denmark marches with Germany, so the visit of the Danish Foreign Minister, Gustav Rasmussen, to London the other day may prove vital in helping to clear up the tangled question of South Schleswig, the northernmost area in the British-occupied zone of Germany.

A few facts of recent history may help to explain Danish interest in what is going on in the border area just south of the Danish frontier on the Jutland peninsula.

About 80 years ago Schleswig and the neighbouring Duchy of Holstein still belonged to Denmark. However, at that time—in 1864 to be exact—Prussia, which had just been embarking on the road to world dominion, attacked weak Denmark and, after a brief campaign, wrested from her the two provinces Schleswig and Holstein. After Germany's defeat in the First World War a plebiscite decided the partition of the country. The northern part of Schleswig went to Denmark, the rest, together with the whole of Holstein, remained in Germany. Some thirty thousand Danes were thus left under foreign rule.

Germany's defeat in the Second World War again roused great interest in the position of the German Schleswig—South Schleswig as the Danes call it. The Danes of South Schleswig as citizens of a defeated country know it is no fun to be German today. In recent months the Danish South Schleswigers have begun a campaign to link their country again with Denmark.

At the same time the number of people who considered themselves to be Danish began to swell rapidly. Some of them hardly spoke any Danish but claimed Danish parentage. Unkind people accused those "new" Danes, rightly or wrongly, of having only material advantages in view. Members of pro-Danish organisations in South Schleswig are, in fact, entitled to receive food parcels from Denmark.

This idea failed, on the whole, to make an impression at Copenhagen. Not only the Danish Government, but also ordinary people in Denmark, are against the annexation of South Schleswig into Denmark. The reason given is unwillingness to cause trouble between Denmark and Germany in the future, and hesitation to accept the large number of Germans into the Kingdom of Denmark. The memories of illegal activities of the German minorities in Poland and Czechoslovakia before the outbreak of the 1939 war are still fresh in the minds of the Danes.

### The German Refugees

However, the Danes—the Government and the people alike—are very much concerned about the welfare of their kinsfolk across the southern border. They are troubled by the fact that great masses of German refugees escaping from provinces invaded by the Soviet armies early in 1945 came to stay in Schleswig and Holstein.

The Danish minority suddenly found itself outnumbered even more heavily than before. Where there used to be ten Germans to one Dane there are now almost twenty to one. The Danish

people are, therefore, much concerned about the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Danish minority in South Schleswig.

Prolonged negotiations took place with the British Military Government, and there is no question that very substantial concessions were given to the Danes by this country. Many Danish schools, for example, were permitted. These schools receive their teachers, books, and even prefabricated schoolrooms, furniture, and writing materials from across the border. Lectures, gymnastic teams, choirs, YMCA and Y WCA teams, not to speak of numerous clergy, come from Denmark to minister and teach their kinsmen. Recently the Royal Theatre of Copenhagen has paid a visit to South Schleswig and the principal Danish-language newspaper in Flensburg (Germany) is receiving all its newsprint from Copenhagen.

### Still Dissatisfied

Yet the Danes are still dissatisfied, mainly because no measures have, so far, been taken to reduce the number of German refugees in the two ancient Duchies, and also because the South Schleswig Association (the principal organisation of the Danish minority) has not been given the status of a political party equal to other German parties in the province.

Although Mr Rasmussen's visit to London may not have finally solved all the outstanding questions regarding South Schleswig, these talks are significant because they concern one of the many problems connected with Germany which must be solved before Europe can settle down to peaceful work of reconstruction.

### Schools Can See It

PEOPLE are still flocking in thousands to the Britain Can Make It exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The millionth visitor passed through the turnstiles in the third week in November.

As already mentioned in the C.N., Tuesday mornings are reserved for schools; and on the first three mornings of this privilege more than 200 schools visited the exhibition, the parties averaging 50 pupils. School parties came from as far afield as Tavistock, Bristol, Sheffield, and Chesterfield.

## Flying Taxis

DOOR-TO-DOOR air-taxi services, operated at a cost no greater per mile than motor taxis, are planned by a Stockport firm. The services are intended to take a client to any part of Great Britain as quickly, comfortably, and cheaply as possible. In addition, the service will link up with world air services.

"We shall pick up a client at his home, take him by road to the airport, fly him to his destination, and be ready to bring him back when he desires," states the manager of the firm.

Negotiations are in progress to obtain 50 acres of land at Hazel Grove, only ten miles from the centre of Manchester, for use as an airport. In the meantime, a few planes are being operated from Derby.

## ROAD-SAFETY EXPERT

THE death of Major C. V. Godfrey, Chief Constable of Salford for 38 years, has robbed this country of one of its foremost authorities on road safety.

Major Godfrey, who was 70, went to Salford after serving in the Railway Police.

He introduced the system of "play-streets"—now in extensive use throughout the North—which, free of traffic during the daytime, gave children safe and quiet places of recreation; and among his other ideas were white coats for policemen on traffic duty; traffic control by police officers with illuminated helmets and red-and-green coloured torches during foggy weather; and free testing of private cars.

All Salford children have learned to entrust their safety to the police without reservation, and it was largely through the efforts of Major Godfrey that Salford and its road safety became an inspiration to us all.

## Encouraging British Composers

FORMED with the prime intention of rehearsing works by British composers, the new Sheffield Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra is a unique acquisition to British musical circles.

Composers will be afforded an opportunity of hearing their works performed by a full orchestra, and will thus be able to smooth out any flaws which become apparent before submitting them for concert performance. These "experimental rehearsals" will be open to members of the Society and of its Listeners' Club, as will be the "try-outs" for artistes. Mr Herman Lindars is the founder and conductor of the orchestra, which is giving its first public performance on December 8.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**OPERATION SHAMROCK.** From Germany recently 125 German children went to Eire for a holiday. The movement was called Operation Shamrock.

At Kalgoorlie, in Australia, eleven men, after digging a 120-foot shaft, have found gold quartz worth about £250,000. It is the richest gold "strike" for many years.

An appeal for £250,000 has been made by Professor Einstein and a group of scientists to form a fund to educate the community in the social implications of atomic energy and the steps necessary to avoid the destruction of civilisation.

**BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY.** A New York driver who went on board the U S liner America to say goodbye to friends was so interested in being shown over the ship that he did not notice she had left the port. He was set to work washing dishes on the voyage.

At Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika an Arab who claims to be 106 years old has stated that he was present at the meeting of Stanley and Livingstone at Ujiji in 1871. He had previously worked for Livingstone.

A Government food ship has been sent from Port Moresby to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, where the natives face

hunger owing to their main food, taro, having become diseased, and also because wild pigs had damaged their sweet potato crops.

An Iowa farmer, Don Radda, has won the Washington Journal tallest maize contest for the last nine years. This year his maize was 31 feet high.

**AIRBORNE BULBS.** Over 3700 gladiolus bulbs were recently flown in a Pan-American Clipper from San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand. They are to be grown for commercial purposes in the Dominion.

The people of the Embu tribe are keenly interested in the films now being shown by the Kenya Information Office. The Information Room, newly constructed in the Embu district, proving to be far too small, the people have decided to build a large open-air theatre.

A Norwegian film is to be released in London next spring. Called the Travellers to England, it is about the adventures of 18 Norwegian patriots who tried to escape to England to join the Free Norwegian forces.

**U TIN TUT'S SALARY.** A Finance Member of the Burmese Executive Council, named U Tin Tut, has announced that from December he will give his entire salary to the Burmese nation.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**NEW SCHOOLS.** The cost of building new schools and colleges, reconstructing existing schools, and other building developments under the Education Act is likely to be £1000,000,000—about £70,000,000 a year over a period of 15 years.

Wax has been produced from peat by the British Department of Scientific Research.

A scheme to provide boarding-school education for children between 12 and 16 years of age, at a cost estimated at £100,000 a year, has been approved by the London Education Committee.

**LOOKING AHEAD.** The Royal Society of Arts, which initiated the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851, is to offer a prize of five hundred guineas for the best paper setting out the purposes which might be served by an international exhibition in 1951, and offering practical suggestions.

Exhibition galleries at the British Museum are now open on Sundays from 2.30 to 6 p.m. The entrance is the north door of the museum.

Earl Lloyd George has completed the script for a film of the life-story of his father, the famous Liberal statesman.

Mr Percy Armstrong, retired schoolmaster, left £200 in his will to Scarborough College to provide a cricket bat as a prize to be awarded every summer.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**BRAVE BROWNIE.** The Badge of Fortitude has been awarded to Brownie June Johnson, of Louth, Lincolnshire, for her courage and patience in hospital after being severely burned.

Crosses for gallantry have been awarded to three Scouts of the 1st Reading (YMCA) Sea Scout Troop in recognition of a vain attempt to save their Scoutmaster from drowning when their boat capsized in the Solent.

The 1st South Shields Sea Scouts recently toured a coal mine extending some distance under the sea.

At a meeting of savings workers, the Chief Constable at Durham County Police presented the 2nd Chester-le-Street Scout Group with a certificate in recognition of their great assistance to the Savings Movement since 1939.

An evening's entertainment for twenty French children staying in the district was recently provided by the 8th and 9th Bingley Scout Troops, Yorkshire.

An Empire Training week has been held at Foxlease, the Girl Guide centre in the New Forest, to stimulate interest in matters affecting Guiding overseas.

## THE £400 WRITING TEST

ARE you competing in the great C.N. Handwriting Test? If so, and you have not yet returned your Entry Form, please complete the Test Passage and post promptly. The address is: Handwriting Test, Children's Newspaper, Room 171, The Fleetway House, London, E.C.4 (Comp).

The last day for the C.N. to receive applications for Entry Forms was, of course, December 3, and no further requests can be entertained. Remember, however, that the final date for receiving entries from individual readers or schools is—

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**



## A DREAM COMES TRUE

Almost every boy at some time or other dreams of becoming an engine driver. The dreams of these two Lithuanian boys have soon come true, for they are the driver and guard of a children's railway which crosses the public park at Vilna, capital of Lithuania. The railway, nearly three miles long, was presented by the authorities and is run entirely by children.



## PACIFIC PESTS

SNAILS four to five inches long abound in New Guinea, and are increasing so rapidly that they have become a menace to the plant life of several islands. The Japanese invaders introduced them for food. Now the authorities are racking their brains to think of a way of getting rid of these destructive snails.

## GREAT & LITTLE

THE extremes of agricultural research are to be found in the aerial photograph and the electron-microscope photograph.

An aerial photograph may cover many acres of land. This type of photography is being used by the Ministry of Agriculture in research concerning such factors as differences in soil colours and the effect of shadows on crops.

At the other end of the scale the electron-microscope may only cover a millionth part of a square centimetre. It is capable of picking out objects 50 times smaller than those which can be seen with the best microscope, and is used for examining virus diseases.

## A Pig Who Would A-Swimming Go

IN the middle of the Norfolk town of Diss is the Mere, covering some six acres, and the other day a pig performed the extraordinary feat of swimming across it twice.

After declining an invitation to be housed comfortably, the pig escaped into the Park fields, followed by children and its would-be custodians. Dashing into the Mere, it swam across to some butcher's premises. By the time its pursuers had got round to the spot, the pig sensed that there was no future for it in a butcher's yard. So, shooting through the legs of those out to

## Operational Plan CCC

THE challenge of Christianity is going to be brought to the heart of our nation and Empire. The Christian Commandos, who have already established beach-heads at various points all over England, are now planning, preparing, and praying, in anticipation of their greatest and most difficult venture so far—an attack on Greater London, which will open on April 14 with a big meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, and will continue for ten days.

They will have many allies, some enemies, a few fifth columnists, and perhaps more than a few neutrals. But it is going to be a stirring business when Operational Plan CCC—Christian Commando Campaign—is put into effect. Youth will be there in full force. Some will be wearing the badge "CCC" and some will not. But badge or no badge London is going to be invaded by the Commandos of Christ, and thousands of young people will be in the forefront of the attack. More power to their elbow.

capture it, the animal ran back into the Mere and swam to the other side.

Ignoring all invitations to come ashore, the pig then paddled along to a private garden and took refuge for the night in a summer-house.

Not until the following day was its hiding-place found, and even then it took three men to capture it.

Except for a cold, the animal was none the worse for its adventure and has since been eating well—and we all know how well pigs can eat when they really get down to it!

## PROBING THE SKIES

WRITING in the Soviet magazine, Culture and Life, M. Vavilov, chief of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, states that two Russian scientists have probed the atmosphere to a height of about 35 miles with "projector rays."

He goes on to say that this unexpected and surprising experiment opens up a new practical method of studying the atmosphere with results which may be significant.

## Plane-Spotting Again

THE men and women of the Royal Observer Corps who kept constant watch for hostile aircraft during the war made a great contribution to the nation's safety by giving advance warning of the approach of enemy planes.

Now the Royal Observer Corps is being reorganised. Some permanent officers will be appointed, but 28,500 sparetime volunteers will be required. In the first place, only those with previous experience will be enrolled. All volunteers will be trained to identify planes in flight and practise plotting, and from time to time will join in exercises with the R.A.F.

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

THE British Council, which was founded in 1935 to spread knowledge about Britain in overseas countries and foster cultural relations between them and us, has recently published its Report for the year ended March 31, 1946. The Report shows, among other interesting matters, how further progress has been made in building up again those valuable relationships between Britain and Continental Europe which had been broken by the war.

The Report is to be seen in most public libraries.

## The Rabbit, the Fox, & the Dog

THIS story of a dog's cleverness has just reached the C.N.

Mr E. Woodward, of Hornchurch, Essex, was roused from sleep by the sound of a rabbit squealing in terror. Thinking of his own rabbits, he rose, took a torch, and called to his Alsatian dog, Rex. Hurrying to the door leading into the garden, Mr Woodward saw by the light from his torch a fox running down the path with one of the rabbits, which was still squealing. With a growl Rex dashed off in pursuit of the thief, which turned into a field and raced for safety with its victim.

Feeling that he had seen the last of his rabbit, but hoping that Rex would catch the fox,

Mr Woodward decided to return to bed. But before he had settled down there was a squeak followed by a bark at the front door. When he opened the door he was amazed to see Rex and the rabbit waiting for him, the dog wagging his tail with delight and the rabbit still trembling in fear.

The rabbit, he discovered, was suffering from nothing worse than a lameness in the hind legs, and a few hours later had completely recovered.

Mr Woodward believes that the fox was forced to drop the rabbit in the effort to get away from Rex, and that the dog gave up the chase in order to carry the rabbit home.

## NEWS IN KENYA

THE influence of the printed word on the African reader is increasing in Kenya. Paid circulation of newspapers produced for the African there is now over 50,000; and as several people share each copy, and some read aloud to groups of listeners, an interest in current events and people is being cultivated and is becoming stronger.

## A CHURCHILL BEACON?

AT a recent meeting at Sandwich, Kent, to consider the proposal of erecting a giant statue of Mr Churchill on the cliffs of Dover, a gentleman from Margate made a suggestion which must have caused Mr Churchill to chuckle heartily when he heard of it. The man from the town of shrimps, sands, and sea-breezes solemnly suggested that the statue should have a huge cigar which could be kept permanently illuminated as a guide to shipping in the Straits.

Some at the meeting thought that a giant statue was not in keeping with British tradition and dignity, and no doubt they also felt that, much as we owe Mr Churchill, there is no need to turn his cigar into a beacon.

The imaginative Margatian's idea recalls a similar one made by Mrs Kruger, widow of the famous Boer leader, when the question of a statue to her husband at Pretoria was being discussed. Her idea, which was carried out, was to leave the top of the statue's hat open to serve as a drinking bath for birds.

## Canadian Generosity

INDIVIDUALS and Church groups and clubs in Canada have been surrendering their meat coupons so that the meat they might have obtained with them should be sent to Britain and Europe. During the last six months more than three million pounds of meat have been sent in this way to us and people on the Continent.

In the last two weeks of October alone 97,000 coupons were thus sacrificed, the largest single contributor being the Mennonite Church with 10,000 coupons. This Church was founded at Zurich in 1525, and after it had been greatly persecuted was reorganised by Menno Simons, whose name it bears.

Mennonites today are often farmers, and are everywhere respected for their honesty and philanthropy.

## Twice Launched

NOW on the high seas, stowed on the deck of another ship, the Iranian Oil Company boat Lali will have the distinction of being launched twice.

Built at Port Glasgow in 1939, the Lali was dismantled to make way for war tonnage. Re-assembled after the war, she was launched, ran trials in the Gareloch, and was again dismantled by a new process. She was divided into four sections with oxy-acetylene flame cutters.

On arrival in Persia she will be launched in the River Karun after being electrically welded into one complete ship again.

## WASHING SMOKE

THE world's strangest "laundries" are to be found aboard the Queen Elizabeth. They are situated in the funnels, and they wash the smoke.

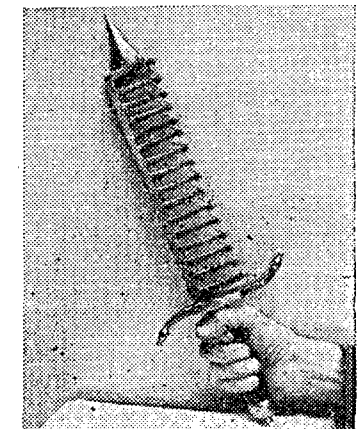
These laundries are huge circular water-filled tubes which extract the heavy smuts from the smoke and allow a "clean" gas to be released. Through periscopes in the boiler-room, stokers, who can look directly into the smoke-boxes, are able to control the volume of smoke entering these strange laundries.

## ROUND THE MUSEUMS

Here is the second of a new series of pictures of odd things to be seen in various museums throughout the country.

### The Sword Breaker

THIS queer weapon, to be seen at the Brighton Museum, may well have been the answer to the bully with the sword in the days of Henry VIII, when it was used. The user caught the blade of his adversary's sword



in the weapon's teeth and then, by a deft movement of his wrist, broke the blade. The point at the end shows that the sword-breaker was not used purely as a defensive weapon.



## Gas Without Coal

A NEWSPAPER in Eire informed its local public recently that there will be no coal in that part of Ireland for the next two years, perhaps not for the next ten. The people burn peat and wood, but for those who can afford it there is gas.

Gas without coal. "Why not?" queried a friend of the C N when she heard of it, and she went on, "I have just returned from a two years' stay in Portugal, where, without coal, they have a constant supply of gas for houses, for lighting, and for industrial purposes. Gas in Portugal is all distilled from wood."

This prompted a few remarks from another friend who was present. He was an engineer who, for some years before the war, had been in charge of a copper-mine in Spain, where he used coal imported from Britain. The Spanish Civil War cut off his coal supplies, and it was expected that he would have to close down. He did not close; he sent out men and boys to collect for him a heath-like shrub, which, growing wild on the moors and far-ranging wastes of Spain, has a great woody root. To the Spaniards it is "Jara," or, as they pronounce it, "harra."

These roots the ingenious engineer baked and baked until he converted them into charcoal, and with that charcoal as fuel he continued to run his mine until the intensity of the armed strife in Spain made it necessary for him to bring his family home.

Of course, gas from wood is an old idea; but it is one of the romances of reality that there still remain European countries that have not always to bow the knee to Old King Coal.

## French Choirboys



These two boys belong to the French choir known as the Little Singers of the Wooden Cross, who have been visiting this country.

## TWO-LANGUAGE SERVICE

ON a recent Sunday a German prisoner-of-war pastor assisted the local minister at a communion service for both English members of the church and German prisoners-of-war.

This was part of a two-language service at Tilmanstone Methodist Church, Kent, where the local minister's sermon was translated into German. Two hymns were sung in each language, and a prisoner-of-war and an English lady were joint organists.

Services for prisoners-of-war are to be held in the church alternate Sunday afternoons, and local people are invited to attend.



## The Author's Autograph

Enid Blyton, the well-known writer of stories for children, autographing copies of her books for some of her admirers.

## PLANNING A JUNGLE RAILWAY

IN a remote wilderness of Western Tanganyika, in Africa, about a hundred miles from the shore of the great Lake Tanganyika, a party of surveyors are successfully plotting the route of a new railway in the face of many dangers and difficulties. They have been harassed by swarms of tsetse flies—which carry sleeping sickness—menaced by lions, and hindered by wandering hippos.

All the surveyors carry rifles constantly, in case of attack by wild animals, and they consider themselves fortunate that so far only one of their labourers has been killed by a lion and only one has contracted sleeping sickness.

The railway is to be a branch line to link the Mpanda region with the main Central railway. The Mpanda is one of the wildest parts of Tanganyika, a realm of wild beasts, but it is rich in deposits of gold, silver, and lead, and the new railway, which is to be 130 miles long, will make possible the development of these resources.

The Central Railway, to which

the new branch is to be linked, runs for 775 miles right across Tanganyika from Dar es Salaam, the capital, on the coast, to Kigoma, on the shore of Lake Tanganyika.

It was near Kigoma, at Ujiji, that the Governor of Tanganyika recently unveiled a new memorial to the famous meeting there, 75 years ago, between Livingstone and Stanley.

When the two great explorers met there, the interior of Tanganyika Territory was unknown to the outside world. Today it is still a land of remote wildernesses, for although its whole area is four times the size of Britain, it has only 16,112 white people living in it, and 5,437,100 Africans.

It was formerly German East Africa, but was taken away from Germany after the First World War and given to Britain to hold under a mandate from the League of Nations. Britain, this year, announced her intention of placing Tanganyika, together with other mandated territories, under the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.

## And Now For Whooping-Cough!

WHOOPING-COUGH begins in childhood; it is readily passed from one child to another, especially in winter. Something must be done about it beyond the remedy of taking the sufferer to the big gasworks, as is the homely East-End practice.

Something is to be done. Medical Officers of Manchester, Tottenham, and Wembley have combined to seek to enrol children, with the consent of their mothers, to serve as volunteers to submit themselves to a new vaccine as a protective measure. The infants are much too young to offer conscientious objection, though their mothers may, for the selected age of these beginners is between six and twelve months. Then the child, having been vaccinated, will be examined once a month and its condition compared with that of a child who has not received the vaccine. This examination will continue for two years.

This widespread campaign has

been set on foot, because, though the results of a former British vaccine were disappointing, a vaccine developed in America by Professor Sauer and Dr Pearl Kendrick has been extremely successful. It is with this new vaccine that the experiment will proceed, in the hope that it will have the same success as the preventive serum against diphtheria—which also was first successful in America.

## ROYAL TRAIN

WHEN the King and Queen and the two Princesses visit South Africa next year they will travel round the Union in a train of cream and gold which has been built specially for the South African Government by the Metropolitan-Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company. The other day the royal party inspected this train at Saltley, near Birmingham, and the King thanked the company and the workers for having built the train in record time.

## The Editor's Table

### THE OLD FOLKS NOT AT HOME

*The Cause of Youth is ever close to our hearts; but the C N is not unmindful of the older generation and here has a word to say for the less fortunate older folk—many of them grandmothers and grandfathers—who, all too often, find themselves lonely in the evening of their lives, seemingly unwanted and forsaken.*

THERE are many thousands of elderly people in Britain who would like a home of their own. Some of them are living with friends or relations, many are struggling to keep large houses going with no help, and fifty thousand others are in public institutions because they have no one to look after them. Britain has done much for its children and its youth. Will it now provide some of the simple needs of life for its old people?

Children and youth need security, care, and freedom in order to get the finest out of the process of growing up. Old age also needs security, but no less does it need friendship and care and freedom. Why should so many thousands of old people in this land be compelled to live in institutions where their daily life is lived without the precious possession of privacy? We must devise new ways of securing privacy without that utter loneliness which comes to many old folks. Specially-built houses are needed, with private homes attached to common dining-rooms and sitting-rooms, so that elderly people may have not only the comradeship they crave for, but also a corner of their very own.

IN days gone by private charity provided many groups of almshouses, many of which have been real homes for the aged. But poverty and destitution were the keys of entry, and old people in Britain need a new kind of house where they can live in comfort and independence.

The nation owes a debt to those who have worked for their families and their country. The State is doing its share in providing pensions; but pensions are not enough. We have in our country ample resources to provide adequately for those growing old, and to those resources must be added a spark of imaginative interest and concern, the warming touch of kindness and interest which the best-intentioned State schemes often lack. Only in an atmosphere of friendship can old age flourish in its full dignity and grace.

HERE, then, is a new, big task calling for volunteers. Just as in the cause of child welfare and youth training there have been indomitable pioneers, so now this cause of Britain's old folk calls for pioneers in a new adventure of Service to Age.

## Better School Books Wanted

ADDRESSING the Royal Empire Society recently, Admiral Sir John Cunningham, First Sea Lord, described our school history books as "parochial," and he pointed out also that little attention is paid in our school books to Empire geography.

"Cannot they be rewritten on the pattern of those of the chairman, who makes history live?" (The chairman was Mr Bryant.) "And cannot a geographical Arthur Bryant be found," he went on, "to stimulate in our youth an interest in Empire geography? We are citizens of the greatest Empire the world has ever known, but we seem to teach our youth less about it and its history, its people, and its potentialities than we do about the planet Neptune."

"Without knowledge there can be no understanding, no mutual trust and no comradeship, no common doctrine and no cohesion; and without these a scattered Empire and Commonwealth such as ours cannot endure in spite of land-power, air-power, or sea-power."

The C N would go further than Sir John Cunningham and suggest with Unesco, that the world's schoolbooks need revision to rid them of the parochial outlook and give them a broader view of the World Family as a whole.

## OFFICIALESE

THE story was told the other day by the Deputy Mayor of Bath of how when the present Bishop of Bath and Wells, Dr H. W. Bradfield, first went to his Palace at Wells there was no scrap of soap in it. He applied to a Government department and received this reply:

"It is much to be regretted that saponaceous material cannot be found in the Palace, but we would suggest that other detergents may be available."

## Under the F

CHILDREN are none the worse for being given a tap sometime says a schoolteacher. As well as a bit of soap and flannel.

A DOCTOR says he thinks nothing of doing two hours' digging in the garden before breakfast. Lots of other people don't think of it either.

A WELL-KNOWN dancer came to London to seek a career. And took steps to become more famous.



AN artist says the correct way view a landscape is to on your head. Why some mo pictures look best upside down.



## THINGS SAID

SCIENCE has now reached a point at which its application, if rationally and sincerely made, could provide an adequate minimum standard of living for every human being in the world.

*Professor Julian Huxley*

THE most important thing in a child's life is a permanent background on which he can count. He wants a permanent continuing love from the same person or persons.

*Godfrey Nicholson, M P*

WHY not appoint a Children's Minister?

*Thomas Scollan, M P*

THE more I get in from Savings the less I shall need to get in from Taxation.

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer*

How much is a waterly to Quarterloo?

*Season Ticket Inquirer at a S R station*

## The Ideal Passenger

IN these days of hurrying and rushing many bus conductors are often the victims of thoughtlessness and even abuse by passengers in a hurry to get to work or home. Although the conductor is on his feet most of the day he is usually cheerful and patient.

The London Passenger Transport Board receives many a letter praising the courtesy of conductors, but here is a case of the conductor praising the passenger.

Conductor H. Childs has written to the L P T B. that he has found the ideal passenger, Mr Henley of Finchley, "who boarded the bus during a busy period, tendered the exact fare, handed me a purse he had found on the seat, and did all he could to be helpful."

Indeed, the world would be a much happier place if, like Mr Henley, we all developed a sense of give and take.

## Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If girls with a  
mincing gait  
take short cuts



GAMES bring girls out. Unless they are indoor games.

LONDON trams are to be done away with. They have been going a long time.

A HOUSEWIFE wants to know how to make fruit tart. Pick it before it is ripe.

A BOY says he can't think why people want to be tailors. Because it is fitting.

A GIRL typist is making her name as a singer. Knows all the different keys.

## Education By Films

THE use of the cinema to guide the peoples of India, China, Africa, and other countries to a higher standard of civilisation was outlined recently by Mr Adolph Zukor, founder and chairman of Paramount Pictures.

Mr Zukor said that films could explain in the simplest terms how natives might improve their yield of cotton and other basic crops. Other film corporations were interested in the venture, but it was to Britain that he looked for support.

"The British Government is the only one today which realises the tremendous force of the motion picture," he declared, "and I do not think we shall have any trouble in getting it to support us."

Thousands of projectors were in the possession of the British and U S Governments, and it would be an excellent thing if they were released for the benefit of those countries in need of the guidance which films could give.

The C N has always considered that the possibilities of education by films are boundless and we are glad to learn that a great man of the film world is in agreement.

## The Yearly Round

AUTUMN to winter, winter into spring.

Spring into summer, summer into fall;

So rolls the changing year and so we change,

Motion so swift we know not that we move.

*Mrs Craik*

## A Lamp and Its Message

THE new mayor of Mossley has had a special gas lamp, bearing the town's coat-of-arms, erected in front of his house. Since 1922 every new mayor of Mossley has had such a lamp put up in front of his house and left there for his term of office. Mossley and Nelson, in Lancashire, claim to be the only towns in England where this custom is observed.

Although Mossley is, for administrative purposes, in Lancashire, parts of it are in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, and its three municipal wards are named after these three counties. Appropriately, Mossley's coat of arms—which are painted on the mayor's lamp—consists of a red rose for Lancashire, a white rose for Yorkshire, a corn sheaf for Cheshire, and a cotton tree symbolising the town's industry. Its motto is Floret qui Laborat (He flourishes who works)—one which many people outside Mossley might take to heart!

## TROUBLE-MAKERS

WHERE no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

*Proverbs*

# YOUNG LADY GRIZEL TO THE RESCUE

THE memory of Lady Grizel Baillie, who died on December 6 just 200 years ago, is dear to the hearts of Scottish people for two reasons. A poet who enriched Scottish literature with one imperishable song, she also, by outstanding courage and devotion, won a high place in the ranks of Caledonia's heroines.

It was as a young girl that Lady Grizel first proved her mettle. Her father, Sir Patrick Hume, of Redbraes Castle, in Berwickshire, was unjustly accused of having had a hand in the notorious Rye House Plot of 1684, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. When the king's troops arrived at Redbraes Castle, however, Sir Patrick had disappeared. Knowing that capture meant death, he had hidden himself in the vaults of Polwarth Church, just a mile away.

The problem of supplying him with food was solved by devoted little Grizel, then only twelve. Every night for many weary weeks she threaded her way nervously but courageously through the tombstones of Polwarth churchyard with a basket of provisions for her father. In the grey light of dawn she would make her lonely way back, tap softly on her mother's door—and whisper that all was well.

To obtain enough food without arousing the suspicions of the servants Grizel used to sit at mealtimes with a napkin on her lap, transferring the contents of this or that dish as opportunity provided. Her apparently huge

appetite sometimes mystified her younger brothers and sisters.

Eventually Sir Patrick and his family escaped to Holland, remaining there till William and Mary ascended the throne of Britain in 1688. But it was while she was in Holland that Grizel began to write her poems, including the famous lyric:

*When bonnie young Johnnie  
came over the sea,  
He vowed he saw naething sae  
lovely as me;  
He gave me gowd rings, and  
mony braw things—  
And were na my heart light I  
wad dee.*

*His kindred sought ane o' a  
higher degree—  
Said, Wad he wed ane that was  
landless, like me?  
Albeit I was bonnie, I was nae  
worth Johnnie—  
And were na my heart light I  
wad dee.*

*O were we young now as we ance  
hae been,  
We should have been galloping  
down on yon green,  
And linking it o'er the lily-white  
lea—  
And were na my heart light I  
wad dee.*

## How to Reach the Footplate

A PAMPHLET issued by the Big Four Railway Companies shows how boys can become not only engine-drivers but can begin work in any of the other departments of the railway service, and how girls, too, can enter the railways as a career.

A boy who really wants to become an engine-driver can begin when he is 16 or under as an engine cleaner at a wage of 40s 6d a week. The next step up is to be a fireman starting at

93s 6d a week. When at last he gains control of a locomotive, his wages start at 113s 6d a week.

The railways, which today employ more than 600,000 people, take boys and girls at school-leaving age, but older boys and girls are also accepted.

Full information is given in the pamphlet, Guide to Juvenile Employment which can be got from The Secretary, Railways Staff Conference, LMS Headquarters, Watford, Herts.

## Precious Jewel of Sussex

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, which is 850 years old, is urgently in need of repair, and an appeal for £30,000 has been made.

When this appeal was launched at Brighton the other day, the Bishop of Chichester described Chichester Cathedral thus: "It is the most precious jewel among all the treasures of Sussex made by the cunning of men's hands, and it enjoys a setting of cloister, close, and palace within the beautiful grey city of Chichester which enables its light to shine even more brightly."

The City of Chichester, upon which the Norman pile looks down, had a turbulent history in ancient times. It was destroyed first by the Romans, then by the Saxons, and later by the Norsemen. In the eleventh century the Saxon bishop's seat was transferred there from Selsey.

## The Potter's Wheel



The ancient art of pottery is a popular subject at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, where this London girl is shaping a jar.

## BOY BISHOPS

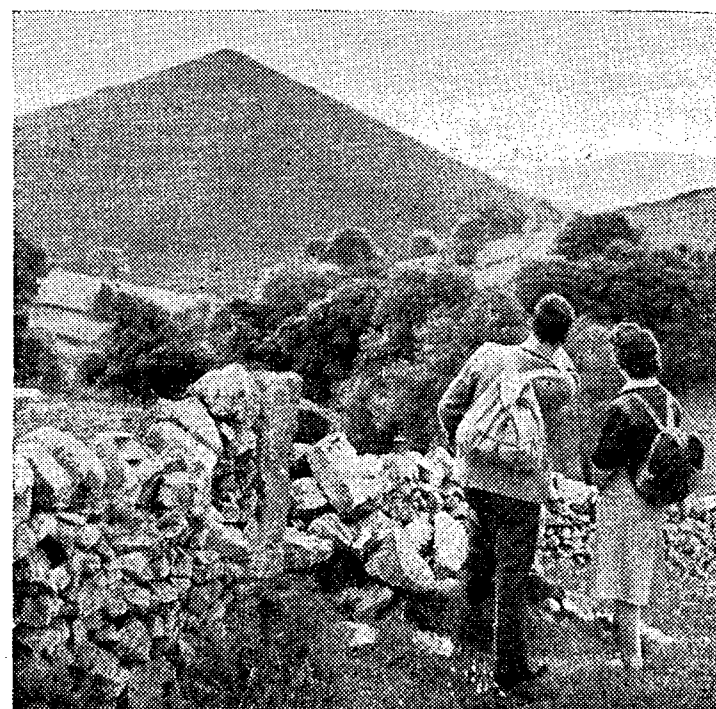
IN the Church Calendar December 6 is dedicated to St Nicholas, patron saint of children.

In all our Cathedrals upon this day it was formerly the happy custom for the young choristers to elect one of their number to act as Boy Bishop from that date until Holy Innocents' Day (December 28). The boy who was chosen wore vestments suitable for his rank, and conducted all the Cathedral services except the most solemn sacraments.

On Holy Innocents' Day the Boy Bishop preached a farewell sermon, and in the records of St Paul's School it can be read how "All the children shall every Christmas Day come to Paul's Church, and there listen to the Child Bishop sermon... And each of them shall offer a penny to the Child Bishop."

St Nicholas is, of course, Santa Claus, and presents were originally given on the eve of December 6.

Though the modern child has to wait another three weeks for Christmas gifts, December 6 this year may perhaps be regarded as the date for their consideration.



THIS ENGLAND

High Wheeldon, above the Dove Valley, recently given to the National Trust



## Churches Were the First English Theatres

It may surprise some people to learn that a movement is on foot for promoting the performance of stage plays at Canterbury Cathedral. But the plan, if it goes forward, will be a renewal, not a beginning.

The scheme began 18 years ago, when a sacred play by the Poet Laureate was presented in the cathedral chapter house and six other plays followed in subsequent years in the same historic setting. With a resumption of dramatic performances planned for next summer, it is now desired to equip the chapter house with a proper stage and adequate accommodation for orchestra and performers.

If this excites wonder, it may be to many a matter for still greater surprise that our drama actually began in the Church. Centuries before a theatre was built in England plays were written and performed by monks and priests, and their pupils. So long ago as 1110 Geoffrey, a Norman monk, afterwards Bishop of St Albans produced a play at Dunstable Priory with St. Catherine as heroine, and her life-story as the drama. All the early plays came from such sources. They were acted in the churches, or in tents in the churchyards, or in adjoining houses, or the great yards of the ancient inns. These Miracle plays, as they were usually called, took the form of Bible history, of the sufferings and triumphs of the saints, and dramas with characters representing vices and virtues in conflict.

But the old writers who provided the sacred plays introduced the wildest knockabout fun into their works. One showed Noah's

wife as a shrew, beating her husband. Another had a sheep-stealing scene in the adventures of shepherds on their way to behold the infant Jesus at Bethlehem, the action including the hiding of the stolen sheep in a bed, and the law officers at first mistaking it for a great baby.

Many plays of this kind were performed in our cathedrals and churches. They were among the high lights in the lives of the poor people who dwelt in squalid hovels. The brasses on the tombs were the people's portrait gallery. The painted windows pictured the story of the Bible and the supposed miracles of the saints for multitudes who could not read. The old dramas, mingling laughter with piety, were the theatre and cinema entertainment of the Middle Ages, moving audiences of devout, simple folk alternately to tears and smiles, and sending them home all the happier.

So Canterbury Cathedral is only reviving once more a very ancient practice. The example it set in 1928 with Mr Masefield's sacred play, and later with T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, has been followed by other places of worship. But it is beyond dispute that the Church was the cradle of the theatre, and of the flowering of the dramatic art which gave us the matchless plays of William Shakespeare.

## CROMWELL'S BATTLE PSALM

ON the request of the Cromwell Association a memorial is to be erected near Dunbar to commemorate the Battle of Dunbar on September 3, 1650, when Cromwell defeated a Scottish army.

Never was Cromwell nearer defeat than on that occasion. The Scottish commander, Sir David Leslie, had cornered the English army in an apparently hopeless position in the peninsula of Dunbar. Nor were the Parliamentary forces—in their leader's own words, "poor, shattered, hungry, discouraged"—in any shape for a battle after their long march north.

Then Leslie, with victory within his grasp, made the fatal mistake of descending from the high ground where he had dominated the situation. "The Lord has delivered them into our hands," said Cromwell, and gave the signal to attack.

Nothing could withstand the disciplined onslaught of his superbly-trained cavalry, and the Scots were completely routed.

It was characteristic of Cromwell that he should call a halt in the pursuit of the scattered Scottish forces so that his army might sing the 117th Psalm in gratitude for their victory.

## Plastics to Speed Up Ships

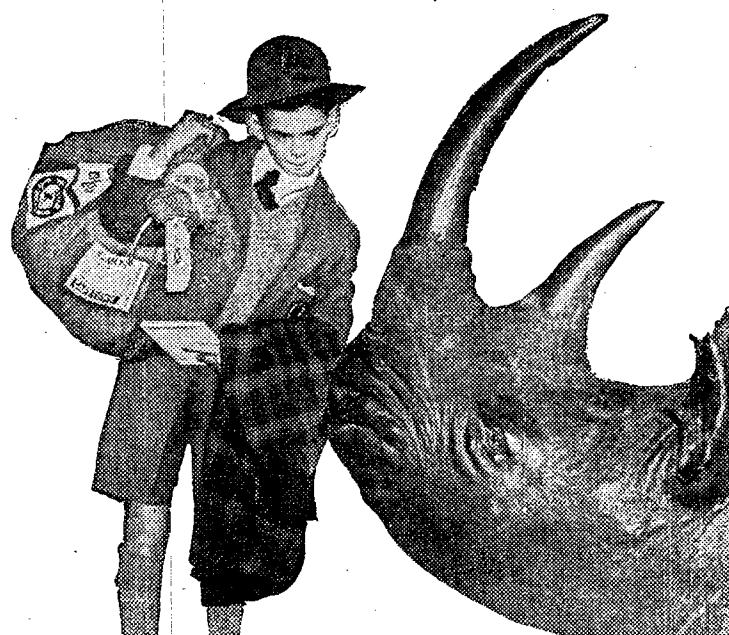
SOME 30,000 feet of plastic material is to be applied to the hull of the Queen Mary, now being reconverted into a luxury liner at Southampton. Called Arnbee, the material will be trowelled over every inch of the thousands of jutting plate edges, which hinder progress by causing the formation of eddy currents as the vessel forges ahead. By the abolition of these eddies more speed will be obtained with less fuel and power. The material, which sets steel-hard, will rise wedge-shape from the plate edges, thick at the base and tapering to zero against the ship's plates.

This form of streamlining can be applied to old ships without altering a single plate, and it may be possible to increase the speed of slow tramp steamers by the process. As British tramp-ship owners are considering replacing their slower vessels with new tonnage the application of Arnbee may solve their problem.

## CRICKET NEWS

WHILE we are looking to Australia for news of cricket the MCC has been preparing for next season here. Dates have been fixed for the Test Matches next summer against South Africa, and five four-day games will be played. The visiting team will be the first from South Africa to play in this country since 1935, and the first matches between the two countries since the MCC tour of South Africa in 1938-9.

The dates for the five Test Matches against Australia in this country in 1948 were also fixed. In this series the matches will be of five days' duration, unless it is necessary to play the last Test to a finish to reach a decision.



## Introduction to a Rhodesian

One of the twenty boys who left recently for the Fairbridge Memorial College in Rhodesia is fascinated by his first sight of a stuffed rhinoceros in Rhodesia House, London. He may, perhaps, be seeing many live ones in the future.

## ECLIPSE OF THE MOON

By the C N Astronomer

If the sky is clear on Sunday evening, December 8, a very fine eclipse of the Moon should be witnessed. It will be a total eclipse.

The Full Moon will rise at about 3.35 p.m. in southern England, and up to about 20 minutes earlier in the north. The eclipse will begin at 4.10 minutes past 4 o'clock, when a dark patch will begin to spread over the Moon's face from the lower left side, as indicated in the drawing.

The Moon will then have entered the *umbra*, or dark



shadow cast by the Earth, and for the next 63 minutes this shadow will creep across farther and farther until the lunar surface is entirely immersed in it. The Moon will then be what is technically called *totally eclipsed*, and will remain thus for 59½ minutes, though her dusky disc will be just perceptible with either a greyish or coppery hue.

At 6.17 p.m. the Moon will begin to emerge from her passage of some 2000 miles through the Earth's shadow. Sunshine will then be seen appearing to light up the left side of the Moon's disc at the place indicated. This will increase during the next hour, the curved edge of the Earth's shadow being noticeable as it passes over the Moon until, by about 7.25, she will be clear of it. But there may still be seen a dusky haze lingering over the right side of her surface, particularly near where the *umbra* had left it. This dusky haze is called the *penumbra*; it represents that part of the Moon's surface from which only a portion of the sunlight is obscured by the dark body of the Earth. This area, of course, gradually decreases as

the Earth passes from between the Moon and the Sun.

Were we on the Moon during the progress of this eclipse, it would constitute, instead, a complete eclipse of the Sun, in the true sense, for the Sun would be hidden by the great dark sphere of the Earth. A scene of grandeur would be witnessed far exceeding what we see in this so-called *total* eclipse of the Moon. Instead, when the Sun was totally hidden, all the glory of the pearly light and streamers of the Solar Corona and the lesser diffused Zodiacal Light would be seen mingling with thousands of starry gems, and in the midst of all would be seen a brilliant ring of light with the colours of the rainbow or a terrestrial sunset, but chiefly red and orange. This would be seen all round the dark sphere of the Earth, which would appear nearly four times wider than the Moon appears to us. It is this light which will illuminate the Moon's surface to make its dusky disc visible even while it is immersed in the Earth's shadow.

This wonderful ring of light is produced by the sunlight shining through the Earth's atmosphere. This light, on being refracted, assumes the prismatic colours of a sunset, providing our sky is generally free from clouds. If these conditions prevail, the eclipsed Moon will appear coppery in tint; otherwise it will have a greyish hue.

The Moon will be almost at her nearest to us and but 222,000 miles away, so she should appear at her best.

G. F. M.

## FEATHERS AND FUR

A HEN has adopted five kittens in a cowshed on a farm at Thetford, in Norfolk. She is so zealous for the welfare of her charges that she pecks angrily at anyone who attempts to disturb them, and allows the mother cat to approach them only at feeding-time.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### THE FAVOURITE

I'VE such a cupboard full of dolls;  
There's Gollywog, who's black,  
And Mistress Bess, who's rather vain,  
And jolly sailor Jack.  
And Lady Clare, and Teddy Bear,  
But pretty little Poll  
I love far more than all the rest,  
She's quite my fav'rite doll!



It's not because she's grand  
as Bess  
And clever—it's not that,  
She only wears a little dress,  
And tiny woollen hat.  
Mistress Bess can close her eyes,  
And Lady Clare, she talks;  
But Polly is the very size  
For me to take for walks.

### Guy and His Kite

GUY never could bear anyone to have anything better than he had, and so when he and his friends decided to make a kite each, he made up his mind that his should be the biggest of them all.

In the loft he found two long, very light, sticks, and just the stuff he needed for covering and tail.

"You had better wait till the week-end to fly it, and let me help you," said his father, on the night when the huge thing was finished. But Guy was too anxious to show off his lovely kite.

Directly he came home from school the next day, he took it out on the common. With very little trouble he managed to get it into the air, and it was flying beautifully when a strong gust of wind took him unawares. Almost pulled off his feet, he tripped over a small bush and fell face downwards in a very muddy ditch.

*Pride goes before a fall.*

### Prayer

DEAR LORD, I ask no better praise  
At setting of the sun,  
Than that Thou can't look down and say  
My day's work was well done.  
Amen.



# THE MANUSCRIPT MAN

A RECENT sale of rare documents and letters at Sotheby's has once again drawn attention to the renowned library formed by that 19th-century prince of collectors, Sir Thomas Phillipps of Broadway in Worcestershire.

Most of us at some time or other indulge a passion for collecting things; when we are young we are usually content with cigarette cards or stamps or autographs. Later on our fancies may turn to books or coins, or, if we are wealthy, to porcelain, pictures, or precious manuscripts—or more wealth. Collecting is one of the most fascinating of all pastimes, and well-nigh universal; but there never was a greater collector than Sir Thomas Phillipps.

Born in 1792, son of a wealthy father, Thomas Phillipps displayed his love for literature quite early in life, spending all his pocket-money on books while a schoolboy at Rugby (and we can be quite sure that his pocket-money was more than a nimble weekly half-crown). His years at Oxford University not unnaturally fanned his literary passions, and, his father dying young, he was able to indulge them without stint.

Thomas Phillipps himself told how he began "with purchasing everything that lay within my reach, to which I was instigated by reading various accounts of the destruction of valuable manuscripts. . . . My principal search has been for historical, and particularly unpublished manuscripts, whether good or bad, and more particularly those on vellum. My chief desire for preserving vellum manuscripts arose from witnessing the unceasing destruction of them by goldbeaters; my search for charters or deeds, by their destruction in the shops of glue-makers and tailors. As I advanced, the ardour of the pursuit increased, until at last I became a perfect vello-maniac (if I may coin a word), and I gave any price that was asked. Nor do I regret it, for my object was not only to secure good manuscripts for myself, but also to raise the public estimation of them, so that their value might be more generally known, and, consequently, more manuscripts preserved."

From those literary hunting expeditions, side by side with his zeal for collecting Phillipps derived a love of manuscripts

for their literary value; and he became the greatest buyer of his age both at home and on the Continent. He travelled Europe, attending sales of great collections, and returning with a vast treasury of documents and books. At home he was equally active in securing precious data relating to kings, abbeys, manors, and landed families.

In spite of this, Sir Thomas Phillipps was an open-air man as happy in a field or garden as in library or study, and taking as much pride in his estates as he did in being a member of learned societies. A full and happy life was his, and all the time he went on collecting. When he died in 1872 he left a collection of manuscripts numbering some 60,000.

## Napoleon's Letters

Gradually his library has been dispersed, and sales of his treasures at various times since his death have realised over £200,000. The wide range of his interests is reflected in the catalogue of the recent sale at Sotheby's, which listed such diverse items as 1000 Letters by Napoleon and his generals; the charter of a seventh-century King of Kent; a document of 1587 recording preparations against the Armada; a letter written by Charles the First in prison, and another by his son Charles the Second in exile; a 15th-century Neapolitan Cookery Book with quaint recipes; the Earl of Surrey's Household Book with the exact account and cost of every breakfast, dinner, and supper throughout the years 1513-1524; and a catalogue of Henry the Eighth's jewels, including his Cruetets of Silver and Gobbettes of Gold.

Sir Thomas Phillipps was a zealous snapper-up of literary trifles as well as treasures. Nothing was too small for his vast collecting net, everything written fascinated him; and he was not merely content to buy manuscripts, for his notebooks showed that he also studied them. He was a remarkable man, and there will surely never be another collector like him.

## Salute to the Sugar-Beet

THE C.N.'s recent article, Salute to the Sugar-Beet, has aroused considerable interest, and a correspondent sends us a few more details about this great British industry which has grown to such vast proportions since our first sugar-beet factory was built. This, in fact, was not at Kidderminster but at Cantley near Norwich in 1912.

The seed, which is destined to produce sugar, is a small seed ball growing on a branching stalk of the sugar-beet plant. Each seed ball contains two or three germs and many plants spring from a single seed ball. The seeds are today sown in rows 18 inches apart at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds of seed to the acre, so the figures given in the C.N. article were misleading. The growing plants are thinned so as to leave about eleven inches between the plants in the row.

The British Sugar Corporation Limited has prepared especially for use in schools a large pictorial poster describing the factory processes of turning beet into sugar. The posters can be obtained by schools from the Corporation's offices at 134 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

## VALUABLE VOYAGES

JUST a hundred years ago the Hakluyt Society was formed to print "the most rare and valuable voyages, travels, and geographical records"; and to mark this the society has held a festival.

Richard Hakluyt was an English geographer, born in Herefordshire. In 1589 he published The Principall Navigations, Voiages and Discoveries of the English Nation, which are still widely read and studied. He left many other manuscripts which have been printed by the Hakluyt Society.

## Terriers of Tomorrow

BRITAIN'S Territorial Army is to be re-formed on January 1.

This army of part-time soldiers was formed in 1907 for Home Defence only, but when war broke out in 1914 most of its members volunteered for overseas service, and the Divisions of the Territorial Force, as it was then known, fought with distinction on many fronts. It was renamed the Territorial Army in 1921, and when war's clouds were gathering in 1939 many thousands of volunteers flocked to its ranks. By September 3, many Territorial units had already been embodied, and while the fighting lasted every war front had its Territorial Divisions.

Now this grand army is to be reformed once more as a peacetime army of part-time volunteers.

Mr Bellenger, Secretary for War, has told the House of Commons that this new army will include not only infantry divisions, but also armoured formations and an airborne division. General recruiting will not be opened before April 1, 1947, though commanders will have been appointed before then. In the late summer of 1950 the Territorial Army will be considerably enlarged by the addition of young conscripts, who will have done their regular soldiering and will have to follow on with some Territorial service.

The Government's aim, clearly, is to make the new Territorial Army up-to-date and really effective as a second line to the Regular Army. Disarmament cannot be entertained until the world has become more settled, and the absolute power of Uno has been effectively asserted.

## OLD SCROOGE AND TINY TIM

### A Picture Story For Christmas

A CHRISTMAS CAROL, the famous story by Charles Dickens, has been laughed over and wept over by millions for more than a century. It was first published in 1843. Next week the C.N. begins to unfold this little masterpiece of a Christmas tale as a serial story in pictures.

As humorous and delightful today as when Dickens—himself laughing and weeping, we are told—first wrote it, the narrative has just enough of that exciting "creepiness" on which tradition insists in a Christmas story. It has pathos, too, and although we today are supposed to be hardened against what is too often dismissed as "sentimentality," we should have to be stonier-hearted than old Scrooge to withstand the pathetic appeal of poor, lame Tiny Tim.

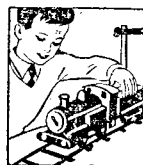
The central figure in the story is a rich old skinflint, Scrooge, who hates Christmas and calls it a lot of humbug. He is visited at Christmastime by four ghosts who strive to make him penitent, and in the end succeed.

More copies of the C.N. are now available, but newspapers cannot cater for chance sales. The only way to make sure of your C.N. regularly each week is by placing an order with your newsagent.



"Mine's a model Target!"

"Guess what I'm saving for—a model railway! That's my target, and I'm buying National Savings Stamps as hard as I can. When the railways are in the shops and I can choose the sort



I want, I'll probably have enough money saved! And by saving now, I'm helping towards Britain's Target too. Are you saving up for something? I bet you are!"

Join your School Group — and

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE **SAVE**

BUY 6d., 2/6d. OR 5/- NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS WHENEVER YOU CAN.

## Many People Are Needed

### THIS YEAR TO PLAY THE PART OF FATHER CHRISTMAS

If we are to make it a real peace Christmas for our people in the East End of London—especially the children, will you please do so with a gift to The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLOM, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.



for coughs & colds

A teaspoonful of Owbridge's each night guards against infection of throat & chest.

**OWBRIDGE'S**

price 1/3 inc purchase tax

*Famous for drawing!*

For over a century Gillott's have made the finest quality and the widest range of drawing pens in the world... the favourites of famous artists. At present supplies may be limited, but the excellence persists.

*Gillott's Pens*

By appointment Pen Makers to the late King George V

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD. VICTORIA WORKS, BIRMINGHAM

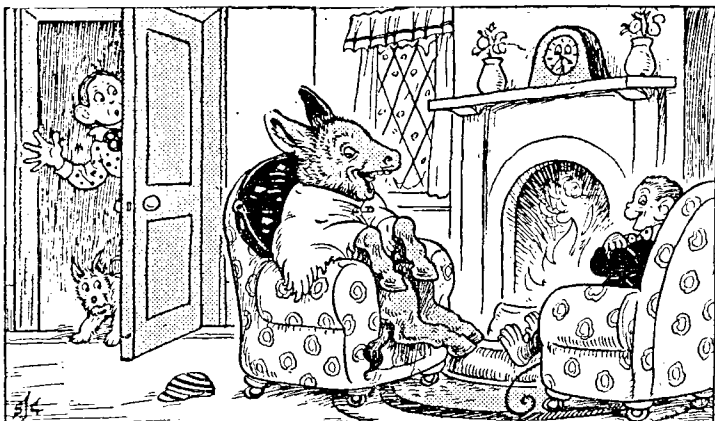
**WELGAR**

**SHREDDED WHEAT** GIVES YOU MOST FOOD VALUE...

Made by The Shredded Wheat Co. Ltd., WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE.



## Jacko's Odd "Visitor"



JACKO thought that his donkey had caught a cold through being out in a snowstorm, so he brought him indoors, put a shawl round him and made him comfortable. Soon Mother Jacko was puzzled by hearing braying sounds coming from the sitting-room. "What a queer laugh," she said. "Who can it be; has Jacko brought his schoolmaster home?" She got a shock when she looked in and saw Danny occupying her chair!

### UTILITY SHEEP

TOWN cousin on her first visit to the country, pointing to some sheep in a field:

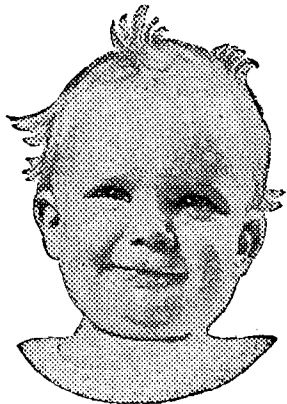
"What is that funny covering on the backs of those animals?"

"Wool, of course."

"I wonder! I'm sure it's half cotton."

### For Those Muddy Shoes

A LABOUR saver has been put at every door—remember to use it, and there will be a welcome for you always, although it may not be written on the mat!



*Mummy  
knows what  
helps my  
tummy!"*

**'MILK OF  
MAGNESIA'**

Regd. Trade Mark

A PROVEN PRODUCT OF THE  
CHAS. H. PHILLIPS CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

## The BRAN TUB

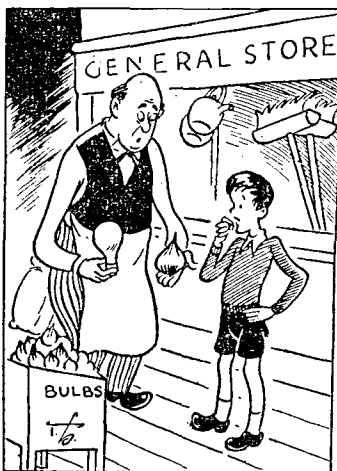
### Toeing the Line

THIS makes a good competition at any time of the year, indoors or out.

Put a chalk line along the floor, or mark it with narrow tape or string stretched taut and fastened at each end.

The game is to walk the line while looking the reverse way through a pair of binoculars—that is through the big instead of the correct narrow end—with forfeits for those who miss.

### MEET RODDY



"I can't remember whether Mum wants them for the light or the garden."

### Not Travelling Light.

THERE was a young hoarder called Dahlia, Who wanted to fly to Australia, But the officials said, No, By sea you must go— No plane could take your paraphernalia.

### THE WRONG LESSON

"I'll teach you to fall asleep during my lesson," said the "prosy" professor to the student who was nodding more obviously than the rest.

"Please don't trouble, sir," was the quick reply. "I've learnt already."

## The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, December 4, to Tuesday, December 10.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Toytown Treasure. 5.30 Mavis Bennett's Juvenile Songsters. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Rambling Through Red River Valley—a talk; a story; Londonderry Baby String Orchestra; Young Artists.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Moonfleet (Part 3). 5.40 Operation Wally—the true story of a whale. North, 5.0 Badger's Beech (Part 5). 5.20 The Raiders (Part 3). Scottish, 5.0 Aberdeen Junior Arion Choir. Welsh, 5.30 The Owl and the Pussy-cat (Part 7); Write Down Your Answers; Dagwood Beetle—a story.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Greenstone (Part 4). 5.40 Pigeon Post.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Matilda Meets a Young Friend; Dobson and Young.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Mary Queen of Scots—life of the tragic Scottish Queen.

MONDAY, 5.0 Winnie-the-Pooh (Part 9). 5.25 Music at Random. 5.40 Films Talk by Eric Gillett. Midland, 5.25 Paper and Cobbler's Wax—a talk on Brass-rubbing; Harry Engleman and His Players. Northern Ireland, 5.40 A talk about Christmas Parties. Scottish, 5.0 The Hutmans. 5.15 Dudley Stuart, White (songs); Laura Black (violinist); Round the Zoo (No 3). West, 5.25 Presents from the North Wind.

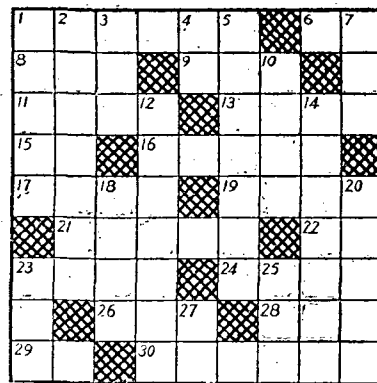
TUESDAY, 5.0 Fairfax—the story of a squirrel; Folk Songs. 5.25 Nature Parliament, with Uncle Mac, L. Hugh Newman, and Peter Scott. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Rathina (Part 6); Important to Us; Gramophone records specially for sick children.

### Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Helps one to rise. 6 Father should know this abbreviated American State. 8 On ponds perhaps this month. 9 Washes the coasts of France. 11 A Squad. 13 In rear of the front. 15 Hydrant. 16 Fragrance. 17 A British duck. 19 The Soviet Union. 21 This big fruit is an anagram of a smaller fruit. 22 Company. 23 Encircles a cycle wheel. 24 One-eighth of an apothecary's ounce. 26 Source from which metals are obtained. 28 Her name reads the same both ways. 29 Royal Artillery. 30 Farmers.

Reading Down. 1 Knowledge. 2 A place of learning. 3 A cave. 4 A printer's measure. 5 To spring back. 7 British swimming bird. 10 Batters. 12 Often contains paintings. 14 A waterfall. 18 Pertaining to the air. 20 Citizen of a former great Empire. 23 High pointed rock. 25 A sheep. 27 Early English.

The Children's Newspaper, December 7, 1946



Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

### Tongue Twister

BETTY beats a better batter with a bit of better butter.

### MUSICAL BOUQUETS

IF there is a big crowd at a party, musical bouquets is easier than musical chairs.

While the music is playing, everyone skips round the room, then when it stops call out "Seven roses in this bouquet," and the children have to gather together in bunches of seven. The bunch which has not enough flowers is out.

Vary the number and the kind of flower every time. Just at first a number which divides out equally may be hit upon, but as the crowd thins, a glance round will enable the right number to be chosen.

### Jumbled Test Cricketers

OUR Test cricketers in Australia are not a bit confused really. But the names of six of them are here. Can you make them out?

HOT NUT RING GLADE  
NAVES RAP DOLL  
CHIDER DAY LYRE

Answer next week

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Insect Homes. "What a lot of Oak-apples!" exclaimed Don, pointing upwards, where, on the leafless branches, were clusters of brown marble-like balls.

"They are not Oak-apples," answered the farmer, "although they are frequently misnamed by that name. They are Marble-galls, one of the numerous types of galls found on oak trees. They are made by quite a different insect from the one responsible for the true Oak-apple. If you were to cut a Marble-gall open when it is green and unripe you would find it contained a solitary larva. The true Oak-apple would contain several."

### Balancing Feat?

MURIEL was determined that when her big brother was demobilised from the R.A.F. she would be able to talk sensibly to him about flying, so she read all she could find about the plane and its history.

"What was the monoplane like?" was one of her first questions to him.

"An aeroplane with one wing." "Which side was it on?"



B.S.A. Cycle Ltd., Birmingham, 11.